

# Trail Talk

*Conasauga Ranger District*

*September 2012*



## ***Working Weekend***

*Est. 1990*

**TEAM CONASAUGA + BMTA + BCHNG=10 miles of trail maintenance success!**



**Comments overheard along Hemp Top Trail during Working Weekend #65:**

**From a first time Volunteer-"Seeing this inspires me to do more."**

**From a Volunteer in his first year, responding to a question about how he found out about Team Conasauga-"I looked at several organizations but I was inspired by what I saw with this group-I found the camaraderie to be infectious..."**

**From a Volunteer in his third year-"This is an effort and a weekend to be proud of..."**

**From all-"It's been a great day!"**

What inspires you to volunteer your time? Has it been a while since you joined us for a day? Why not let that original inspiration bring you back? This autumn will be a great time to do so. We look forward to seeing you on the trail or on another project.

By the way, one of our Working Weekend participants is a member of the original “core” group of Volunteers who helped us kick this program into gear in the early 1990’s. This individual signed a Volunteer agreement with us on August 4<sup>th</sup>, 1991. Keep reading to see who this noteworthy Volunteer is.



Thirty-four (34) Volunteers participated in our 65<sup>th</sup> Working Weekend which actually began on a Thursday as **Tom and Tannis Blackwell** tackled the swing blading on lower Hemp Top Trail, making it up to Spanish Oak Gap. This effort gave us a great start and is one of the reasons we were able to complete this task the following Saturday... On Friday sixteen (16)

Volunteers joined Forest Service District employees Ryan Farr and Karen Larsen on East Cowpen Trail to finish the swing blading and trimming there. The group was also able to work on a portion of Rough Ridge Trail. Participants included **Tom and Tannis Blackwell, Jim Leatherwood, Dan Newman, Chuck Brock, Tom Owens, John Franetic, Michael Richter, Mark Drucker, Gail Milner, Charlie Crider, Eric Loffland, Troy and Wanda Brown, Doug Allen, and Carlos Martel...** On Saturday thirty (30) Volunteers including three on horseback finished the swing blading and trimming on the entire length of Hemp Top Trail on the Georgia side of the border. Working Weekend warriors included **Team Conasauga Volunteers Troy and Wanda Brown, Amos Burrell, Nicole Warren-Miller, Tom and Tannis Blackwell, Jim Leatherwood, Chuck Brock, Robert Edmondson, Dan Newman, John Franetic, Susan Boyle, Jim Bishop, Michael Richter, Mark Drucker, and Doug Allen (Doug is one of the original core members of what was then called TEAM Cohutta),** Backcountry Horsemen of North Georgia Volunteers **Carlos Martel, Junior Kyle, and Chuck Payne,** Benton Mackaye Trail Association Volunteers **George Owen, Dave Blount, Michael Mettee, Ralph Heller, Claire Broadwell, Barry Allen, Larry Dumas, Mark Yost, Michael O'Brien, Steve Davis, and Jeff Anderson.** Forest Service District employees Mike Davis and Ryan Farr had the honors on Hemp Top... Equestrian **Helen Chamberlain** completed a ride reporting additional blown down trees for us to tackle on Hickory Ridge Trail near the Jacks River, and she also tackled some trimming and hauled a good bit of trash from the Beech Bottom area back to the trailhead... Campground Host **Tim Woody** continues to do a tremendous job at Lake Conasauga...Jerry Phurrough continues his good work at the Pocket Campground primarily on weekends...Troy and Wanda Brown, Jim Bishop, and Jim Leatherwood completed a crosscut saw recertification and they were able to clear blown down trees on the lower portion of Hemp Top Trail while at it. Their instructor was FS employee Mike Davis and they were also joined by SAWS Ranger Jake Beggs... Equestrians **Larry Wheat, Susan Van Apeldoorn, and Marlene Hayes** cleared small deadfall and debris on portions of the Dry Creek Trail system...Troy and Wanda Brown tackled several blown down trees on



Rice Camp Trail near the old logging camp site...Trout Unlimited Volunteers Alex Watson, Tony Rackie, Jeff Wilson, Mike Prater, Paul Diprima, Steve Peace, Dawson Cornett, Buddy Reece, David Bowen, Ken Day, and Jody Fencer participated in a work day on Rock Creek repairing stream structures. They worked with Forest Service employees Michael Joyce, Austin Roland, Rex Rymer, and Ruth Stokes...Equestrians and mountain bikers tackled a significant amount of blown down tree removal and brush cutting of weeds along several of the trails within the Dry Creek Trail System. Participants included **David Smith, Kimi Gregg, Gennie Dasinger, Bill Hester, Jeff Williams, Chris Zimmerman, Marcus Moore, Steve Harrell, Linda Touns, and Larry Wheat**; they were assisted by Forest Service employee Ed Lang...**Troy and Wanda Brown, Amos Burrell, Jim Leatherwood, and Helen Chamberlain** tackled blowdowns along portions of the northern sections of Hickory Creek and Rough Ridge Trails near Jacks River... **Kathy and Hanley Rose tackled blowdown along portions of Iron Mtn. trail for a day while reconning the trail...** An awesome August as seventy-one Conasauga Ranger District Volunteers contributed approximately **1,000** hours to the cause!!



Trout Unlimited Volunteers place a stream structure log in Rock Creek to create resting cover and feeding areas.



During active hunting seasons on Wildlife Management Areas (especially deer and bear hunts) wear fluorescent orange colors in order to be visible while on the trail. We typically avoid trail maintenance activities during the more popular hunt dates highlighted in yellow.

## Wildlife Management Area Hunting Dates

### Cohutta WMA

- Archery/Either sex deer and bear: Sept 8 - Oct 9, Oct 15 - Oct 19
- Firearms/Buck Only and Bear: **October 11-14, November 28 - December 2**
- Small game: 8/15 - 9/7, 10/20 - 24, 10/29 - 11/8, 11/25 - 2/28



- **Feral hog:** may be hunted with archery equipment during archery deer hunts, with deer firearms during deer hunts, with small game firearms during small game dates. Special hog hunt: March 2-8. No dogs.

## **Johns Mountain WMA**

- **Archery/Either sex deer and bear:** Sept 8 - Oct 19
- **Firearms/Adult/Child, Honorary License Holders, Ladies/Either sex and bear:**  
**October 26 - 28**
- **Firearms/Buck Only and Bear/Either sex deer last two days:** **November 20-24**
- **Small game:** 8/15 - 9/7, 10/20 - 24, 10/29 - 11/8, 11/25 - 2/28

## **Chattahoochee NF OUTSIDE OF WMAs**

### **Deer**

- **Archery/Either sex:** September 8 – October 12
- **Primitive Weapons/Either sex:** October 13 – 19
- **Firearms/Buck only:** **October 20** – January 1

### **Bear**

- **Archery:** September 8 – October 12
- **Primitive Weapons:** October 13 – 19
- **Firearms:** **October 20** – December 2

**Raccoon/Grouse** October 15 – February 28

**Squirrel** August 15 – February 28



**Blowdown here...**



**Blowdown gone! Crosscut sawyers take care of business on Hemp Top Trail.**



**SMOKEY SAYS-**

**In a drought,  
keep FIRE out!**



- **September 15**      **Rough Ridge (Three Forks trailhead), sling-blading. Equestrians needed.**
- **October 20**      **Volunteer Picnic. Invitations will be forthcoming.**
- **Nov 16-17**      **Working Weekend # 66, Tearbritches/Chestnut Lead trails, drain dips and water bars. Camping at Ball Field.**
- **December**      **No trail workday—enjoy the holidays!**
- **January**      **Working Weekend #67, Cohutta Wilderness/Beech Bottom relocation project continues toward completion. We'll car camp at the Cottonwood Patch Campground.**



If you are interested, please contact Karen Larsen at 706-695-6736 x 103 or e-mail [kalarsen@fs.fed.us](mailto:kalarsen@fs.fed.us)

**Note:** In addition to these scheduled workdays, we always need Volunteers who are interested in working independently or with a small group to tackle smaller projects.



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<http://teamconasauga.org>